

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W
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R 110240Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9323

INFO AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS - OSAKA AND OTHER PREFECTURES

THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM OSAKA KOBE 554 ACTION
TOKYO INFO FUKUOKA NAH AND SAPPORO IS HEREBY REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

REF: TOKYO 3112

1. SUMMARY:

AT THIS POINT THREE DAYS BEFORE ELECTIONS ON APRIL 13 CONGEN
BELIEVES THAT:

A) OSAKA IS A TOSS UP BETWEEN KURODA (JCP) AND YUKAWA
(LDP);

B) WAKAYAMA WILL GO EASILY TO INCUMBENT OHASHI (LDP);

C) FUKUI WILL GO TO INCUMBENT NAKAGAWA (LDP, JSP, DSP, AND
KOMEITO) BY SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN;

D) SHIMANE WILL PROBABLY BE WON BY LDP, ITS CANDIDATE
YAMANO EMERGING AS VICTOR IN THREE CORNERED CONTEST. INCUM-
BENCY WILL BE DECISIVE FACTOR IN THREE OF THESE CONTESTS, AS IT
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HAS BEEN IN MOST MAJOR ELECTIONS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT SINCE

BEGINNING OF YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OSAKA INFORMED OPINION GIVES KURODA EDGE OVER YUKAWA, WITH TAKEUCHI (JSP, DSP, KOMEITO) RUNNING THJJD. KURODA HAS CONTROLLED PATRONAGE FOR PAST FOUR YEARS AS GOVERNOR AND IS ATTRACTIVE TO MUCH OF FLOATING VOTE FOR HIS ATTENTION TO SOCIAL WELFARE. HIS CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN VIGOROUS, USING "HUMAN WAVE" TACTICS OF SUPPORTERS SWARMING OVER OSAKA CITY AND SUBURBS. HIS HANDBILLS HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE VOLUMINOUS THAN THOSE OF HIS COMPETITORS. AND HE HAS HAD STRONG SUPPORT FROM JCP LEADERSHIP FROM TOKYO VISITING OSAKA ON DAILY BASIS.

3. CONTRARY TO OPINION OF OUR CONTACTS AND DESPITE KURODA'S STRONG CAMPAIGN, CONGEN HAS "GUT" FEELING THAT KURODA MIGHT POSSIBLY NOT GET ENOUGH VOTES FOR RE-ELECTION. FACT THAT HIS PARTY SUPPORT IS ONLY JCP WILL PROBABLY ENCOURAGE MANY PEOPLE WHO FEAR AND OPPOSE COMMUNISM TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS AGAINST KURODA, IN FAVOR OF SOCIALIST SUPPORTED TAKEUCHI OR EVEN FOR CONSERVATIVE YUKAWA. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ANTI-JCP VOTERS COULD SWING THE ELECTION AWAY FROM KURODA. FOR THIS REASON CONGEN UNABLE TO PREDICT VICTORY FOR KURODA, ALTHOUGH ODDS ARE HE WILL WIN.

4. YUKAWA HAS GAINED LIMITED ADVANTAGE AS A "COMPROMISE CHOICE" OF THOSE WHO ARE UNDECIDED ABOUT MERITS OF THE TWO LEFTIST CONTENDERS. HE WILL NATURALLY WIN VOTES OF MANAGEMENT AND WHITE COLLAR WORKERS, BUT HE IS NOT VERY WIDELY KNOWN FROM HIS PAST TERM AS VICE GOVERNOR. ALTHOUGH SOHYO OFFICIALLY CAME OUT, NARROWLY, IN FAVOR OF YUKAWA, MANY RANK AND FILE ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR KURODA.

5. TAKEUCHI HAS BEEN DISADVANTAGED BY MULTI-PARTY SUPPORT; NONE OF THE THREE HAS TAKEN STRONG INITIATIVES OR GIVEN ENERGETIC SUPPORT FOR HIS CAMPAIGN WHICH JCP DISPLAYED FOR KURODA. KOMEITO IS REPORTEDLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TAKEUCHI.

6. IN WAKAYAMA, INCUMBENT OHASHI HAS HAD TWO GOOD TERMS AS GOVERNOR. HIS PREFECTURE ENJOYS PROSPERITY WITH INFLUX OF INDUSTRY UNABLE TO BE LOCATED IN CROWDED OSAKA. OHASHI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS DSP SUPPORT AND TOLERANCE OF JSP AND KOMEITO, AS WELL AS LDP SUPPORT. HE LOOKS VERY CERTAIN OF WINNING OVER HIS ONE COMPETITOR SUPPORTED BY JCP.

7. IN FUKUI GOVERNOR NAKAGAWA IS ALSO SEEKING THIRD TERM. HAVING SUPPORT FROM LDP, JSP, DSP, AND KOMEITO, AND GOOD REPUTATION FROM HIS PREVIOUS TERMS, HE LOOKS EQUALLY CERTAIN OF WINNING OVER JCP RIVAL.

8. IN SHIMANE, OUTCOME WILL BE LESS ONE-SIDED THAN IN WAKAYAMA OR FUKUI, BUT SEEMS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT YAMANO (LDP) WILL WIN. HE NARROWLY LOST PREVIOUS ELECTION AND WILL GET SYMPATHY VOTE. REPORTEDLY THERE IS CHANCE THAT HIS JSP RIVAL, WHO HAS SOME LDP BACKERS, COULD SQUEEZE OUT A VICTORY BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY. THIRD CONTENDER IS JCP SUPPORTED AND APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE CHANCE. BRUNS

UNQUOTE:
SHOESMITH

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